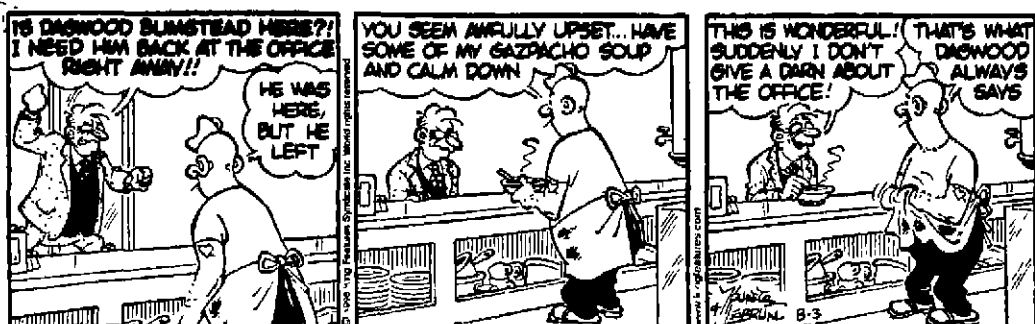


BLONDIE



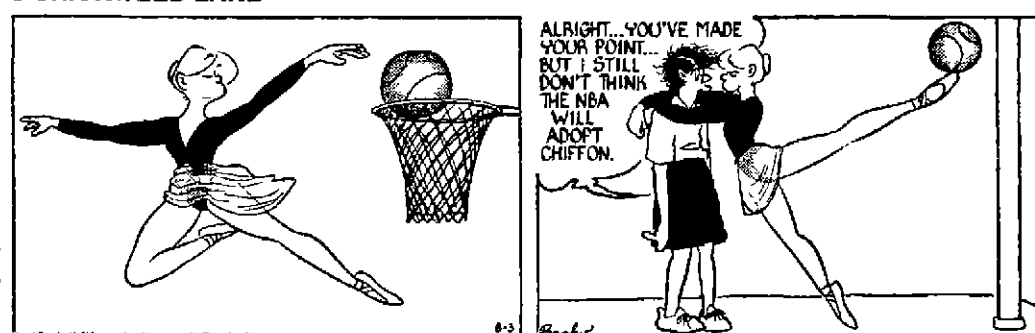
SALLY FORTH



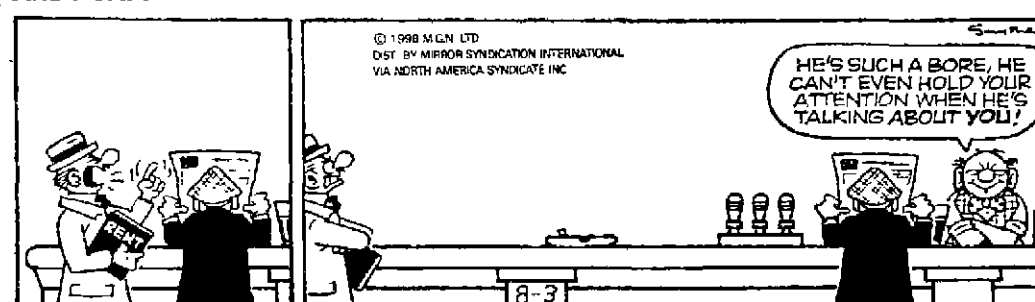
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



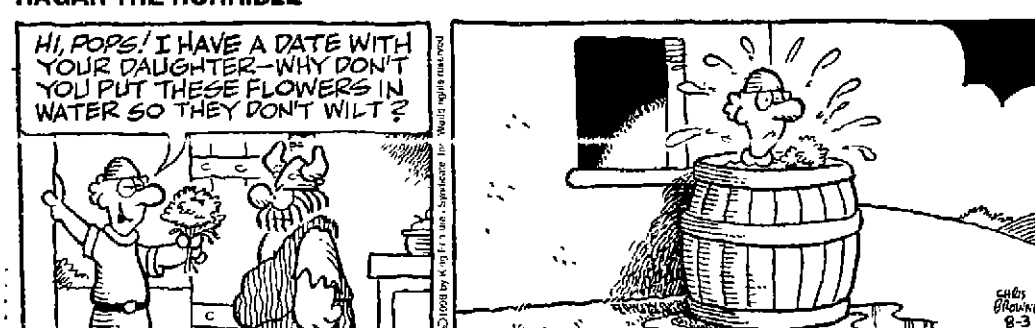
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



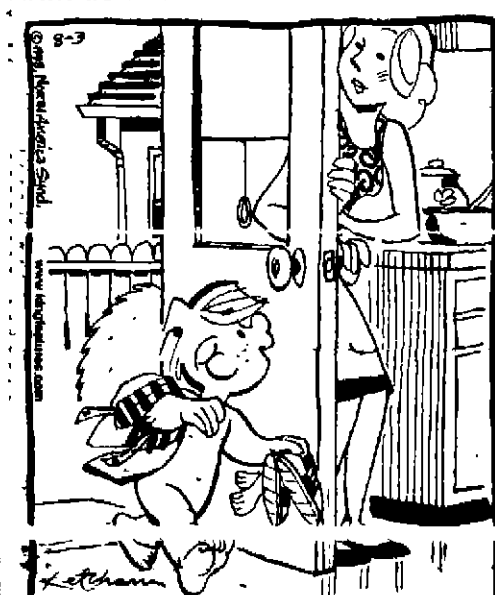
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



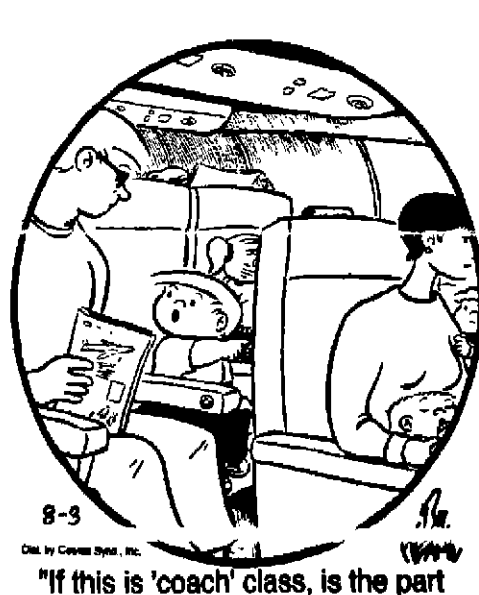
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Author P.D. James is 78. Author Leon Uris is 74. Singer Tony Bennett is 72. Actor Alex Cord is 71. Singer Sheen is 58. Life-style guru Martha Stewart is 57. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 57. Movie director John Landis is 48. Actor Jay North is 46. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 35. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 35. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 32.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

For solution, see Classified.

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 8-3

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, Aug. 4, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You are poised to make a difference, and people will turn to you for resources.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You can learn by listening carefully to someone with a radically different background.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Unless all parties concerned sit down and hash things over, rumors will continue to undermine the truth.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Unless you nurture yourself first, you will be unable to help when another comes to you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Love, sex, power and money are finally within your reach.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Dragging your feet will only make a necessary task seem like more of a chore.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your thirst for new knowledge will lead you into an unsettling situation. Keep your wits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Speak your mind, and you'll be surprised how many others share your secret ambitions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) While your intentions are good, you might be missing the point in your quest for success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Make the most of a situation that unexpectedly puts you in the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A little patience and perseverance will go a long way in smoothing out difficulties.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Be sure to help a friend who comes to you during a personal crisis.

WORD SLEUTH

Long legs

ANKIFCAXVSQOLJH
ECAJXVTERPNLJHF
HDBAYXFEVKTRPOM
KCICGFEOOLDRTBZX
WUIKATR RGAEOLQT
ONGREYHOUNDLTOE
JIIATGEFGDIECS
AGYBXSRRVTPMRRO
SRPBESOOMOSNAIV
REPIPDNASLKNJLA
IGFTEPPHWEECBF

Saturday's unlisted clue: SENATE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Monday's unlisted clue hint: BABY HORSE

Airedale Frog Jack rabbit Spider
Avocat Giraffe Moose Stork
Crane Greyhound Ostrich Whippet
Flamingo Heron Sandpiper

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"I need help," confesses a loyal reader. "When I don't return partner's suit as soon as I can, I get criticized. And when I do, it turns out to be the wrong play. What were the clues to guide my defense on this deal?"

West's heart deuce went to East's 10 and South's ace, and South led the diamond trey to dummy's nine. Our reader quickly won his queen to return a heart, but South took his king and led another diamond, driving out East's ace. This finished the defense. Regardless of what East led now, South had his nine winners, and he claimed them without delay. In today's layout, if East refuses to win the first diamond, the game will fail. South will lead a club back to his jack to repeat the diamond finesse, and this time East takes his queen and returns partner's suit. With only one entry to dummy, South can establish dummy's diamonds but cannot get back to use them. This limits South to only one diamond trick, and the game goes down one or two tricks.

What clues guide East to the winning defense? West's lead of the heart deuce marks South with four hearts, making it virtually impossible for West's hearts to produce three heart winners. Further, when South leads the first diamond and West plays the deuce, he promises an odd number of diamonds. And if West has three diamonds (most likely) rather than a singleton, South has only two, emphasizing the priority of isolating dummy's long suit.

NORTH 16-43 A
♠ J 4
♥ 6 5 3
♦ K J 10 9 5
♣ A 10 6

WEST EAST
♠ Q 7 5 ♠ K 9 8 2
♥ Q J 8 2 ♥ 10 7
♦ 8 4 2 ♦ A Q 6
♣ 9 7 4 ♣ 8 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 6 3
♥ A K 9 4
♦ 7 1
♣ K Q J

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South West North East
1NT Pass 3NT All pass

Opening lead: Heart deuce

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0622

ACROSS

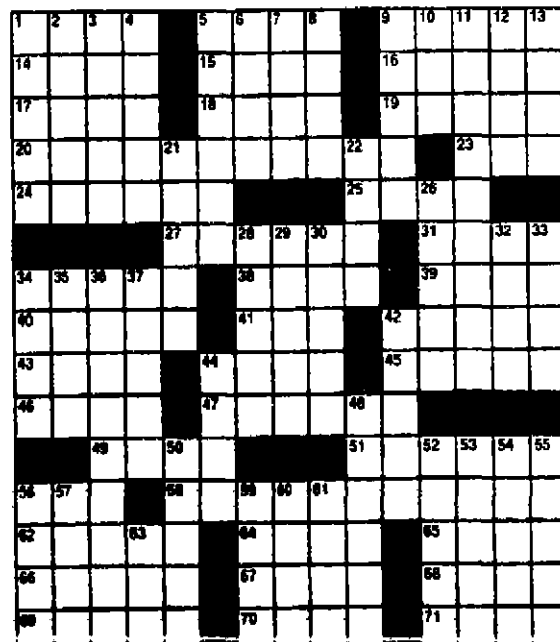
- 1 Mah-jong piece
5 "Saved by the ..."
9 Het up
14 Declare
18 "Garfield" dog
19 Confused struggle
17 Small skirt
18 Chew like a beaver
19 Perfect
20 North Dakota tourist attraction
23 Building annex
24 Attack
25 Campus military org.
27 "Auf wiedersehen" wisher
31 Gymnast Korbut
34 Indian prince
38 Facility
39 British pound, informally
40 To the left side of a ship
41 Fleur-de-
42 Good of boy's nickname
43 Comedian Danny of "The Court Jester"
44 Run pledges through the gantlet, say
46 Positive replies
48 Isle of exile for Napoleon
47 English cathedral city
49 -friendly
51 Neighborhood
56 Show (Hollywood and such)
58 Fatty bulges
62 Seeped
64 "I smell!"
65 Nonglass parts of glasses
66 Martin or McQueen
67 Position
68 Woodwind
69 Person who gives a hoot
70 Miffed, with "off"
71 Neighbor of Wis.

DOWN

- 1 Home of the Buccaneers
2 Wall-climbing plants
3 Home and Olin
4 Writer Jong
5 Stupely
6 Post - St. Vincent Milay
7 Tall tale teller
8 Bawdy
9 Certain acid
10 Homer Simpson's neighbor
11 Singing groups
12 Not imaginary
13 Cry
14 Piece of -
20 Brimless hat
22 Kick back
23 Indian corn
24 Good thing to have

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ARGES HELL MOAT
DALES ARGO ARGO
BYANARROWMARGOIN
REMOVAL DUTANE
HAGE RATINGS
DIDANUMBERON
ROOST RPO IMIN
AWL SCIENTIFIC ADD
WATT AND OILED
MIAIDANIEAINTISIS
CHAMON PUNIBAL
WESBUCHANICEBOUY
WASTY GILL CIGUEL
GHEU GONY SYNE



Puzzle by Shannon Burns

- 33 Barbed remark
34 Nabokov heroine and others
34 Gather leaves
36 "Be ..."
36 "Help me out!"
38 Frankster's item
37 Zones
40 Thrilled to death
40 Church V.I.P.
42 Modern multimedia tool
43 Accused's need
44 Wretched car
45 City on the Ruhr
56 Popular pear
57 Infinitesimal amount
58 Infinite
59 Lake that feeds Niagara Falls
61 Abhor
62 Apple picker

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originated the phrase "truth is stranger than fiction"

44 Submarine